

Maria Misera Miseranda :

10.

Or, A brief

RELATION

OF THE

Life and Death

OF

An Unfortunate Young Maid

IN THE

COUNTY of *DESMOND*

IN

IRELAND.

Together with the Most Horrid
Murder of her LOVER, an English-man,
committed by the FATHER of
the said VIRGIN.

Very Strange and True.

LONDON:

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Marina Milford's Misfortunes :

THE HISTORY OF
COUNTRY OF DESMOND

IRELAND
Together with the Most Horrid
Murder of BEAUFORT, an Englishman,
committed by the FATHER of
the said VIRGIN.

By George and John.

LONDON

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Maria Misera Miseranda:

OR

A brief Relation of the Life and Death of an Unfortunate young Maid in the County of Desmond in Ireland.

IN the most Western parts of the Kingdom of *Ireland*, where the County of *Desmond* opposes its tripple head to the surging Ocean, there is scituate upon the banks of a slender Torrent neer *Dingle Bay*, a very magnificent Castle, known by the name of *Kerbre*; and hard by the same another fair Mannor House, which for its convenient opportunity of Sea, and various recreations by Land, dilated on the one side into spacious Fields, and pleasant rising Hills, and bounded on the other with gay Meadows, fresh Springs, and solitary Groves; has for these many years been honored with the Habitation of an Antient, and right Noble Family; whose Name, the sadness of the subsequent Story gave me sufficient cause to conceal. The Heir now living was in the eighteenth year of his Age contracted to a young Maid in the same County, who did so well answer her Bridegroom in Quality, and Comliness, that they were not unjustly accounted, The most happy and Lovely Pair in all those parts. But these were only the Preludiums of that happiness, which was consummated in their Nuptial bed; whither, although in modesty I dare not follow them; yet doe's the event sufficiently declare that there also was nothing wanting in either party, whereby to advance and Crown their long expected Bliss.

For the full space of five months had scarce past beyond the Wedding-day, when sweet *Helena* by the unusual vicissitudes of Blushes, and Paleness in her Cheeks, and sudden Qualms in her Stomach gave evident tokens that of a Virgin she was made a Mother.

Joyful news this, we need not doubt, both to her Friends, and especially her dear Husband, who from so fair a Wife could not but expect a more than ordinary Child: and so indeed it was; for when the long expected hour was come; Behold, a Daughter, came laughing into the world; A Babe of such admirable Form and Features, as might easily presage her future advancement to the highest seat in Loves Empire. The Resemblance and Idea of both Parents were plainly seen in this little Model; but so sweetly interwoven one with another, that you would have thought Nature, like some skilful Painter, had pourtrayed the chiefest excellencies of them both into one Copy of the Daughter: and lest, notwithstanding, she should seem too sparing in her blessings, added an extraordinary, and unheard of Ornament to the upper part of her Breast; in the middle of which was the picture of a fresh Primrose so lively drawn, that at a very small distance it seemed natural. 'Twere in vain here in dull words to attempt an essay of that joy, which this Creature brought into the world with it; and therefore I leave it rather to the Rhetorick of a pure-thinking mind, abundantly more capacious of so large a subject.

The eighth day of her age was celebrated with a huge confluence of Kinsfolks, and Acquaintance for the giving of her a Name; which, after the *Roman* Ceremony, was, in a Church dedicated to St. *Mary*, very solemnly performed: and because that Saint is reputed amongst the Catholicks, as the glory of all her Sex: what other name so fit to adorn this Babe, which promised so fair an advance to her nature. Hereafter therefore let her be call'd *Mary*, Lovely, and Happy *Mary* in the first of her days, although much more miserable in the end.

As for her Education, it was every way worthy her own person, and defective in nothing whereby to perfect the Blessings

sings of Nature by the accomplishment of Art. For the years of her Infancy being expired under her Mothers care, she was then removed to the Court of *Rome*, where she continued under the Inspection of a very Noble Personage for eight years together. In which time 'tis a wonder how admirable she grew in all these Endowments which adorn the Female Sex: For beside her great knowledg in three or four several Tongues, History, and Philosophy, she played excellently upon many Musical Instruments; and yet of all these none so sweet as the undulations of her Seraphick Voice, which to hear and admire were things unseparably united: She Danced with an incomparable Majesty, and huge-taking gesture; and discoursed in as eloquent a Stile as most *Romances*. In short, there was nothing desirable, which was not in an eminent degree in this Virgin: and yet above all was the excellency of her Person, which by the fourteenth year of her Age was arrived at a perfection beyond the ken of a vulgar imagination.

There you might behold the sweet Strokes, and Harmonious Compofure of most Lovely Features, gilded over with an Incomperable Beauty without, and garnished with a meek Spirit; Virgin Modesty, most virteous, and capacious Soul within: There you might feast the Eye without weariness, the Ear without dulness, and the Touch, I am sure, without repenting: None that ever saw her, could have desired a better; and whosoever could heartily content himself with a worse, knew not the extent of his own happiness.

But the sweet Lady was totally ignorant of all these; and she, who at her first entrance into *Rome* knew none more than her self, nor was beknown of any; doe's now know none less, although beknown of all.

Now amongst those many which were Suitors to her in their thoughts, the first which made his open address was one *Don Antonio*, Heir to a Senator, of great Wealth, and Quality; Who approaching neer to do his Devoir to her in a Salute, was cast into such an extasie by the splendour of her Countenance, forced him rudely to retreat without the Libation of her Sweet Lips. This did not a little discompose the Lady, and made her ask him very sincerely, whether any thing about her

her had done him harm? But alſoon as he had with tears in his eyes related the cauſe; and bowing at her feet diſcloſed his Paſſion for her: She then ſmiling; ſaid; *I hope, Sir, you are more tender of your Honor than to ſtoop ſo low as me beneath your own deſerts: and I aſſure you my Ambition is not large enough to entertain ſuch large proſſers. My Equal ſhall be my Bridegroom when ever I enter that holy State; and therefore I intreat you deſiſt from this enterprize, which may juſtly deſame you, and can never pleaſe me.*

The Young Man had heard enough to ſtop the Current of his Rhetorick, and theſore gazing a while upon her with a gaſtly countenance, he departed the Room, replying never a word; only 'twas thought by the working of his breaſt, he would have ſpoken, but could not. Nor had the Horned Racer of the Night ſurveyed the Heavens once round before another ventures Shipwrack upon the very ſame Seas: For a briſk young Marchant, who had been ſome years abſent from the City, chancing to eſpye her at a Proceſſion, fell into a deſperate and impatient fit of Love for her, which made him, after the Ceremony ended, betake himſelf forthwith to her Lodgings, where he accoſted the ſurprized Lady in this manner.

Faireſt of Creatures! I beſeech you pardon my boldneſs in this ſudden aſſault of your Virgin Modeſty; and if I be guilty of any blame, lay it not on me, but the God of Love, whoſe Vaſſel and Meſſenger I now am. Him come to challenge a Heart, which I believe you have innocently, and ignorantly robbed me of; and becauſe it is impoſſible for you to reſtore it again, excuſe me if I lay claim to yours in exchange of it: Adadon, I know you will think your ſelf a loſer by the bargain, and I am ready on my knees to confeſs it; But yet I pray take pity on me, and your own Honor, which now lies at ſtake: For by theſe Immortal Powers, that rule this raging Flame within my Breaſt, If you deny my Suit, then in that very moment ſhall this very Sword free me from your Tyranny, and my Body which falls in your preſence, ſhall ſtain your ſpotleſs name, at leaſt with a ſuſpicion of Murder and Cruelty.

Whether he intended to proceed any farther, and make a Relation of his Pedigree, and Fortune, I cannot tell: But here perceiving the tears to ſhower from the Lady's eyes, he made

a pause, and stood some while in expectation of an Answer; which, as soon as she had recovered her self from the oppression of amazement, she returned in these, or the like terms.

SIR,

I Much wonder that so unworthy a Creature as I should be the Object of so ardent a Passion; as you pretend: But if so I be, yet let me entreat you to free me from the Imputation of being Wood, and won at the first Attempt. Besides, your Love may hap to die in as short a time as it first sprang up; which if it does, will render you miserable in your Petition, and me as unfortunate in my Grant. I pray therefore be not over-hasty in things of so great concern, and let time prove the constancy of your Love.

This, although it came short of a real assent, yet because it was no flat denial, was as much as could be expected from a Virgin Modesty at the first Address; and therefore the Young Gallant, after a small tarry, departed in tolerable satisfaction, yet promising her another Visit the next day. His absence was no sooner enjoyed, but the lovely Mary begins to employ her Imagination in some Project whereby to acquit her self from the unreasonable requests of this fond Lover; for as yet the Charms of Cupid had not reconciled her thoughts to a Wedded Life: and to deny, or suspend his hopes a second time, she foresaw was a matter of desperate consequence: She therefore calling both her Waiting Gentlewomen, made them conscious of her unhappy condition; and seeing there was no other remedy, resolved, if opportunity served, to acquit her self of Rome. It was in the dusk of the Evening she went down to the River, where finding an English Ship, which was to pass by the Coasts of Ireland, she embarked in the same, bidding adieu to the Walls of Rome, and her Love-sick Gallant. We must now follow her to the Irish shore, where we shall find her Parents in a strange transportation, and sit of joy, with the sight of their fair Daughter, and yet jealous of somewhat by reason of her unexpected return; the cause of which when she had related, did at once give them a sufficient Testimonial of her Virtue, and the high esteem she had merited

rited at *Rome*: And therefore now they sit down in a full fruition of their happiness, admiring those rare Accomplishments which adorned the person of their only Child. But she that had so cunningly escaped the Suits of the *Roman* Citizens, had only exchanged them for those of her own Country; and therefore no sooner was her Name posted into the Neighbouring parts, but a young *Irish* Lord dispatches a Letter to her Father, in this wise:

SIR,

THe loud sounding Trumpet of your Daughters Fame, has blown in my Breast a Flame so far beyond expression, that I shall not here attempt it. My humble Petition is, that you would grant me the Honour of Access to her Person, and Design to call me Son; which Title, as I presume, is no dishonour to your self, so can I promise it to be the Consummation of my greatest happiness.

Tours, Ophon.

This news was too joyful to admit any delay of Answer; and therefore being delivered to the Father of this Lady, was presently seconded with this Reply.

My Lord,

I Greatly fear that the Fame of my Daughter surpasses what she indeed is, and so deludes your Lordships Passion with a vain and ill-grounded expectation: But if your Honour will so far condescend as to make trial by a Visit, I will ascertain you the utmost of my Ability in a Welcome Entertainment; and shall for ever think my self a great Debtor to Heaven, if it has decreed to make her so happy in a Husband, and me in a Son: Until which time I subscribe my self

Your most Humble Servant.

These Lines being presented to the Lord, incited him with all convenient speed to visit his Mistress, whom now with a Presagious Joy he guess'd to be his own; and therefore he, with a very Noble Attendance, did upon the thirteenth day
after

after this Message, present himself before the Gates of his Mistress's Father; by whom being received with much Ceremony and Joy, he was forthwith conducted to the presence of the lovely *Mary*: He found her reading, with tears in her eyes, Sir Philip Sidney's Romance, concerning the Unfortunate Lovers *Argalus and Parthenia*: But being surprized by the entrance of an unknown Person, she shut up her Book; and composing her countenance as well as she could, began to approach the Lord, as it were in expectation of somewhat he had to say to her: The Lord had, without doubt, digested his thoughts into good Rhetorick before-hand; but being now as it were in a *Dilequium*, by reason not only of the unexpected grief he found her in, but also by the superexcellency of her Person, so far surpassing the Voice of Fame. He stood for a while Statue-like, void of all speech and motion, till at last the Rapture of his Soul forcing way through the indisposed Organs of his body, he thus bespake his Fair Mistress.

Most Incomparable Lady!

IF I have interrupted your Virgin Meditations with a rude and unexpected Assault, pray let the urgency of my Errand Apologize for me: Be it known to you then, Fair Mistress, I am by Birth a Lord, and Heir to no mean Fortune: I have lived these eighteen years, from my Nativity, without either knowledge or desire of your Sex, until within these few days of your arrival into Ireland, wherein the exuberance of your Fame, together with the secret whisper of Love's Deity, has embroiled me to you. My first Apply was to your Honour'd Father, whom I find well contented to call me Son: Be but you as willing to call me Husband, and my Happiness is as great as Ambition would have it.

To all this the Beautiful Lady made little answer, only urging the meanness of her Estate and Birth to his Splendid Fortune; and moreover, her dislike to a married life: But the Lord was resolv'd not to desist by these excuses, and therefore reinforces his Addresses with new Arguments, as also did her Father, who pleaded against her from the Topick of Duty.

Now when these Love Affairs were suspended betwixt com-

sent and denial, it hapned that an English Ship, being split upon the Sands in the Western Ocean, near the aforesaid County of *Desmond*; there was one, and only one person escaped with life, whom indeed for the comeliness of his Person, and (as afterward appeared) the supereminency of his Parts, one might well have thought to be Brother to Fair *Mary*.

This Man escaping naked to shore, and destitute of all Friends and Acquaintance, was forced by the Laws of Necessity (which others say have none) to implore the charity of several persons, as he passed the Country, for his subsistence. Amongst others, he hapned to call at the House of *Maries* Father; where being noted by her, as one whose Person was as well admirable to the eye, as his discourse to the ear, was through her Mediation taken into the service of her Father.

And now that Heart, which was before Canon-proof against *Cupid's* Assaults, begins at last to faint in its Engagement: For the Beauteous Lady had scarce consumed the space of three moneths in eying and observing her shipwrackt Servant, but she began to disclose her Passion to him by several Tokens, which any Suiter would have presently understood: But alas! the adverseness of his Fortune, together with the humble conceit of his own worthiness, had render'd him as dull in the Intrigues of Love, as *Mary* was before; and therefore seeing her Father by this time began to grow impatient of Denial in the Lords Suit, she resolved to lay aside her Maiden Modesty, and turn plain Suiter to the Beloved Stranger. For the doing of which, she took this occasion: Walking in the dusk of the Evening, where he was to pass by, she let fall her Glove in the Path, as she saw him come, and so with her Handkerchief at her eyes pass'd away in a solitary posture.

The young man coming to her to present her what she had lost, and seeing her in so melancholly a temper, told her, *He was sorry to see her so, and wishted it were in his power to serve her.* At which words the Lady, no longer able to repress her Passion, did with an extraordinary fervency loose her Tongue into this Rhetorick:

Dear Sir; And are you willing to serve me, then know I sir you alone are able to do it; for of all the men I e're beheld, you only

and he that I can and must Love, and 'tis you alone that must either make me a happy Bride, or leave me a miserable Maid.

So was about to proceed, but that the Man, now almost mad with Joy, stopp'd the current of her words by the interposition of his lips. Long was it before their speech returned, but when it did, 'twas not long before they were made each others by a sacred Vow.

And now the next concerns were how to get beyond the holy rite of Marriage, and after that, where to make their abode: at last it is resolved, that Loving *Mary* taking her Jewels and other most costly things along with her, should that night quit her Fathers house, and so accompany her dearest Beloved into *Northumberland* in *England*, his Native Country. Where, although his Parents were but mean, yet he hoped, by the help of other good Friends, to get a very comfortable subsistence.

This she did accordingly, leaping out at a very high Window into his arms: But O the unfortunate success of this Heroick Act! For the noise, though little, being over-heard by her Father, excited him forthwith to look out at his Casement, where, by the light of the Moon, he might easily descry the matter; And therefore without delay he pursues them with a naked Sword in his hand, to the afore-named neighbouring Bay, where they had intended to take a Boat, and waft themselves over into the County of *Kerry*. The loving Pair had scarce taken Boat, when they saw him approach in a direful manner, threatening no less than present death to his Servant; and although they made what speed their fear and amazement would let them, yet he was soon by their side with another Boat, which made his Daughter leave the Oar, and turn her Prayer against the edge of his Sword: But his Passion was deaf to all entreaties, and therefore, as soon as ever he was within reach, sheathed his Sword in the bowels of the unarmed young Lover.

Mary stood ready in expectation of the same fall, and willing to accompany her Love into another Country (as before she had promised) but as soon as she understood that her Father meant her the injury of Life, and a Wife for the Lord (who was now at home in his Bed) she clasp'd about the waste

walk of her now dead Lover, and crying out aloud, *O my for-
me, throw both him and her self into the arms of the merciless
Waves.*

You will expect here I should make an end concerning our
two Lovers, but the Waters are not willing it should be so,
and therefore next day they brought them ashore, imbracing
each other, as is aforesaid. Which when the Father and the
Lord saw, Then all their Passions were melted into that out of
Grief, and as the last token of Pity, they gave them a very
noble Burial in one Tomb, that Death might not part asunder,
what Life had joyned together.

FINIS.

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